resource

UPPER SPRINGFIELD RESOURCE CENTRE Whiterock Road, Belfast Price 20p

MAY 1985 Nº 30

BLACK

Campaign set to escalate

RESOURCE CENTRE

Since the beginning of January, the Centre has been heavily involved in a number of issues, including the campaign to end the disruptiveness that has plagued the Health Visiting services of West Belfast, the attempt to force the Housing Executive to cough up the £55 it still owes to tenants in Ballymurphy and New Barnsley, the organisation of visits by 10 community workers from Berlin (which took place on Monday, 22nd April) and a 25-strong Asian delegation due in mid-May. We have also been campaigning for a pedestrian crossing on Whiterock Road, as well as lobbying against the so-called 'supergrass' system through Concerned Community Organisations. This is not to even mention the ongoing demands made on us through the Advice Centre. We're knackered!

* * *

RESOURCE magazine has had a slow run this year, this being only the second issue to grace the streets since January 1st. We apologise to all our readers; but we have been so snowed under with other work at the Resource Centre that RESOURCE has suffered unavoidably. Now that we are back on a more even keel, we hope to regulate the production of the magazine, and return to a monthly (near enough) production. Bear with us friends, bear with us ...

* * *

The Housing Executive has refused to pay out the £70.00 due to tenants in Ballymurphy and New Barnsley after the major disruption caused by the Executive's refurbishing. Despite 284 letters sent in by tenants, stating that the work in question took longer than 8 weeks, the Executive is still adamant that each and every single house took exactly six weeks to complete.

That, of course, is not to be the end of the story. The Resource Centre has since written an open letter to Mrs Kennedy at Murray House, accusing the Housing Executive of gross incompetence, and demanding again that the balance of the £70 be paid to tenants. If the Housing Executive thinks that the people of the Upper Springfield can be fobbed off by a dismissive wave of the bureaucratic hand, they've got another thought coming.

On a cheerful note, good news for some: our German visitors were part of an exchange scheme that has been operating for a number of years. The Resource Centre has traditionally organised a day in West Belfast for the group; and this year, we managed to get them all herded about at gunpoint by the Brits down in Divis. An inimitable lesson in British democracy!

However, they don't hold that against us so we are sending two of our number - Sal Brennan representing staff, and Ann Marie Maguire representing the management committee - off to Berlin for ten days in June as part of the return visit.

P.S. We are also getting rid of our editor for a few weeks - sending him on a forced march across the Middle Atlas mountains of Morrocco to pay for his many sins in producing this here piece of scandalous libelous drivel.

This man, a dangerous lunatic, can sometimes be found at the new Family Centre. Here he is seen terrorising the Resource Centre staff.

Fighting Local Issues.

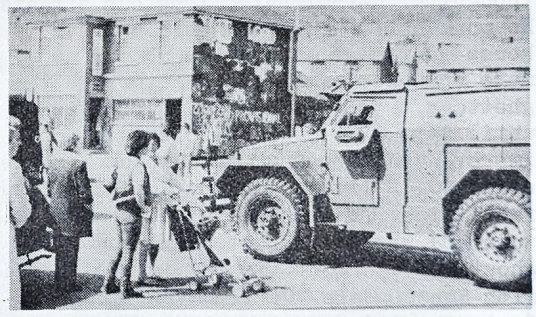
BLACK

On Tuesday, April 23rd, two young girls, Lisa Mooney and Patricia Monaghan, were knocked down on the zebra crossing just below the Springfield/Whiterock junction, once again highlighting the dangers to young and old alike on the roads around us.

In January, the Resource Centre had written to the Department of The Environment, asking that a set of traffic lights be installed at the very same junction, and that a pedestrian crossing be set up on Whiterock Road to safeguard the many children now crossing over to the Leisure Centre, the Family Centre the Community Centres (the BTA Youth Club is in one, and the other is used for many childrens' activities) and the library. The Centre received a reply refusing the Whiterock crossing on the basis of some survey carried out BEFORE any of the new facilities opened, and saying that the DoE would carry out another survey to determine whether or not there is a need for lights at the Springfield/Whiterock junction. In the meantime, as the DoE refuses to listen to the time-honoured reliability of local feeling, two more children are knocked down. Luckily, this time, they were not killed.

On Wednesday, a large group of local people staged a protest at the junction, sealing off all five roads The pictures tell the rest of the story of that day; but despite the usual harrassment from the forces of occupation, the people are determined that this time, they will get their traffic lights, and to hell with DoE surveys.

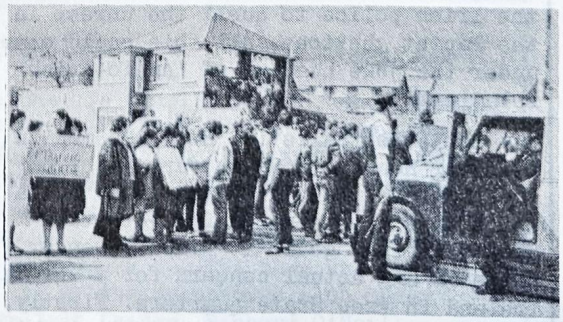
Some 70 people converge on the junction to seal off all roads.



British armoured car drives through protestors.

Section of crowd attempts to stop second military vehicle. Vehicle drives over one protestor's foot.

RUC arrives, fully armed, to do some 'community policing'.



a taste of local politics

Now that the initial impact of the 'highly speculative radical initiative' between the British and Free State governments has receded, what has it left in its aftermath, and what purpose did it serve?

Obviously the desired effect was achieved in testing the depth of Unionist reaction. This could have been foretold by any Nationalist held hostage in his own country by a militarily enforced border. Yet this time the approach was different: it had the eye of the media, the carefully dropped hints, and to tie it all up, no outright denial of skullduggery from either of the parties concerned. All this sent tremors through Unionist circles, and caused them to spout blood-baths, war, and calls to defend the Union. Which brings to mind a certain motion so eagerly sought by the same democratics of a renouncement of violence by participants in the electoral process; but that's another story.

On the other hand, how has all the fuss gone down with the Nationalist people, and what is hoped to be gained there? The thought of Gardai patrolling our streets, No more harrassment, plastic bullets, house-searching, sectarian abuse; no more armoured cars speeding through the ghettoes, won't it be great! That is until it's time to look for a job, or improve your housing, or ask for a better standard of living, health and education facilities. This is where we do an about turn and retrace our steps through the ghosts of Stormont. Yet again, as indeed with Sunningdale, we'll have the cosmetic touches of power-sharing, the nicely furnished offices for opportunists; but one the Loyalist bureaucrats feel that their priveleged positions are endangered, all comes tumbling down. This time, though, it will be the responsibility of the Irish police to quell the unrest in the Papist ghettoes. All this could come under the joke heading of 'Anglo-Irish relations'.

But let's be realistic. Have the men in Leinster House strode so far away from the path of Irish unity that they actually think this type of meddling gets them closer to that goal? At times I wonder if there is any actual concern for a United Ireland in Free State quarters. Firstly, with their costly 'border security' which could be well used in other areas; then their tactics in dealing with Republicans and Sinn Fein - censorship, extradition and so on.

Since the partition of Ireland, they have never taken a determined stand for reunification, never stood firmly up in the face of outright rebuke statements such as 'Out! Out! Out!' and declared that we shall have a united Ireland.

You can't eradicate the facts: Ireland was partitioned against the wishes of the majority; the reins of administration were handed over to those of the Unionist tradition; this inevitably created the sectarian division so eagerly stoked by the British; those of the Nationalist tradition were abused, victimised, oppressed and murdered. When they adopted the pacifist tactics of protest and demonstration, they were brutally beaten, imprisoned and machine-gunned by the so-called enforcers of law and order, the B-Specials and RUC. At this stage, what help and concern did we get from the Free State?

'We have to safeguard our guarantee to the Unionists' is the excuse the British use. Such a laugh! When the time comes, they will be dropped like a brick in water as has happened in the past in other areas around the world where the British have had their sticky fingers. I think the British government has more sinister motives for maintaining its presence in Ireland.

It is understandable that people would like to see peace; but with election time here again, I'm afraid that this 'initiative' is just another campaign manoeuvre, and the beneficiaries are all players except the Nationalist people.

If anything is to be achieved, it will be by the people, firstly by abolishing this forced police statelet, then gaining a British withdrawal, and finally setting about the motions of securing peace, justice and prosperity for all.

Sinn Fein, as a political force and support of the people, will endeavour to ensure that this society becomes a reality.

Is mise le meas,
Robert Corrigan
Magilligan prison.

One night in the good old BTA Social Club, our intrepid photographer snapped this scene of decadence and moral decay. What's the country coming to..?

On the same night, the above notables were celebrating their win at the Bonny Babies Competition; at least that's what Marie tells us.

MATT TALBOTT EASTER SHOW

The members of Matt Talbott Youth Club put on a superb show on Good Friday for parents and other non-participating members. The show was a celebration of music and dance from the 1920's to the present day. There were also comedy sketches to highlight the important or outstanding issues of each decade. These included a Charlie Chaplin sketch, Soup Kitchen scene, Air Raid Shelter scene, and Rock 'n' Roll music scene. To illistrate the 1980's there was a marvellous demonstration of robotic dancing from Michele McGowan and Micky Russell. The scenery for the show was provided by the unemployed club under Project Leader, Richard O'Neill.

HEALTH VISITING CHAOS

What is happening to West Belfast's Health Visiting Services? Recently, it was discovered that Desi Jennings and Maureen Savage, two Health Visitors in the Upper Springfield area, were being transferred to other areas. Following this discovery, some investigation was done into the quality of the service in West Belfast generally. Some damning figures came to light:

Westrock, 1980 - 85: 5 changes, 4 of them in past 3 years.

Whiterock, 1980 - 83: 3 changes.

Moyard, 1980 - 85: 5 changes.

Turf Lodge, 1980 - 85: 7 changes, 4 in past 18 months.

New Barnsley, 1980 - 85: Stable

Ballymurphy, 1980 - 85: 3 changes and an 18-month period of a totally fragmented service

Clonard, 1983 - 85: 5 changes.

Glen Colin, 1980 - 85: 6 changes

Beechmount, 1982 - 85: 3 (possibly 4) changes.

Andersonstown: Stable for some 15 years.

When the Resource Centre first raised the question of disruption to the Health Visiting services of West Belfast, we were told that this was the result of a long-standing policy, and that workers were only moved for professional reasons. We have replied, saying that if this chaotic pattern is the result of a policy it is one that urgently needs to be reviewed. We have also argued that West Belfast needs a service that offers continuity and confidentiality; and that a continuous stream of new faces traipsing through the homes of this community provides neither, and may in fact be counter-productive.

The entire Health Visiting service is optional, something that is not realised by many people. In other words, you don't have to let the Health Visitor past the door. If you are dissatisfied with the nature of the service, there is nothing to stop you from saying so and from severing your connection with it.

In the meantime, the Resource Centre will continue to press for an end to unnecessary movements of staff within the Health Visiting service so that stability can be introduced back into the service.

We feel that people are entitled to a service better than the chaos outlined above.

Appeal

Pieces of the past. Do you have any old bits and pieces from about the turn of the century? The Falls Local History Group, which is planning to preserve one of the old houses from the Falls Road and turn it into a mini folk museum, would like to hear from anyone who can offer old household items. They would like people to hoke about in their attics, and if you come up with anything that looks as if it might be of interest, get in touch. They can be contacted through the Resource Centre.

Ballymurphy Tenants' Association Youth Club is launching an appeal for the following items:

Kosangas cooker.
Record Player, records.
Balls of wool.
Kettle, beads, material, old jewelry, camera.

If anyone has any of the above items, and no longer wants them, pass them in to Sean Mullin at the Youth Club. They will be used to furnish a room at the Youth Club for female members, and allow the workers to provide a much-needed programme for them.

Sean Adams, Hector, Gerard Quigley, Jim Crane, Sando Fleming,and Ernie MrCrory discussing Einstein's Theory of Relativity in the Sloans recently.

Roisin, Bridie, Ann-Marie, Maureen and Margaret nursing an ocean of drink.

One, two, three, and we all fall down...!

LETTERS

Skullduggery was the immediate reaction that came to mind on hearing that the D.P.P. (sic) had withdrawn the charge of possessing a firearm under suspicious circumstances against George (Burn again Scot) Seawright at Whiterock Leisure Centre. It prompted me to probe my mind to ascertain how this could be. After all, Seawright himself publicly admitted to producing his weapon when he and his flag-stealing buddies were confronted by security patrolmen at Whiterock some months ago.

He (Seawright) claimed on Inside Ulster 22/3/85 that he had been vindicated of the possession charge, stating that he produced his weapon to defend himself at Whiterock. I am pressed to demand some answers either from the DPP, Mervyn Elder, the Dept. of Leisure Services or the Town Clerk, Cecil Ward, in order that I, and the Nationalist people, may live without the fear of gun-toting George re-appearing on the streets of West Belfast, waving his gun in the air, or more so, at someone's head.

1. Why has the charge of possessing a firearm under suspicious circumstances been dropped??

2. Why was Seawright not charged with the possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life? As a report in the Sunday World 24/3/85 from the security patrolman involved in the incident claims Seawright actually pointed his weapon at him. The security patrolman was only doing his job in protecting the interests of the centre.

3. Why did this report not come to light before? Did the RUC not pass this relevant information to the DPP?

4. Why has the Dept. of Leisure Services not made any comment on the issue as a whole? As their silence suggests they agree with the action carried out by Seawright and his buddies.

5. Why has the Dept. of Leisure Services not rejected Seawright's claim to have been only defending himself with a firearm, as no one apart from the Leisure Centre staff were present at the Whiterock complex?

It remains to be seen what the eventual outcome will be in relation to Seawright when he appears in court charged with causing an incident likely to cause a breach of the peace. But do not be surprised if that charge is also dropped as the facts speak for themselves. 'Croppies lie down' the status the NIO, DPP, JUDICIARY AND SEAWRIGHT would like us to accept.

I conclude by challenging all political parties representing the Nationalist people to make a positive effort in ridding us of this menace. Remember May 15th is just around the corner.

Yours sincerely,
Perplexed Nationalist
Turf Lodge.

NEW WORKER FOR MATT TALBOTT YOUTH CLUB.

Matt Talbott Youth Club in Moyard is to get a second youth worker who will take up his/her post on 1st. June. This will be a big boost to the youth club, which has relied heavily on voluntary staff and the efforts of the present worker, Brian McLaughlin.

It also comes at an opportune time for the youth club, which will now have the summer months to prepare for the coming year's programme. It promises to be an interesting time for the club's large and active membership. RESOURCE wishes the new worker all the best.

visit fires speculation

Ballymurphy tenants' Association Youth Club has just completed a most successful 3-week trip to the Netherlands. The group, consisting of Sean Mullin, Ann Maguire and ten members of the youth club, left for Tiel on 31st March, and spent the coming weeks taking on board the sights of Holland, participating in various sporting and cultural events, and generally experiencing a different way of life with their host families.

The programme varied widely from, on the one hand, visiting the futuristic Philips building in Eindhoven to working on a farm on the outskirts of Tiel.

The trip was organised in conjunction with Cairn Lodge Youth Club on Crumlin Road; and both groups made many new friends.

The group also hit the headlines in the local Tiel daily. When some of the young people were asked what they found different about the Netherlands, they said that they found it strange that there were so many ducks running about The Dutchman who askee the question said that they had many DOGS for pets in the Netherlands, accents making both words sound very very similar. The Belfast group retorted in amazement that at home people ate ducks. So the discussion went on and on about dogs and ducks; and the next morning it was reported that in Belfast dog was a local kitchen delicacy! Such is the nature of the misunderstandings that bring nations to war...

FACELIFT

What first appeared like another piece of backdoor repression by the Brits through their agents in the DoE has turned out to be a facelift scheme for New Barnsley. New walls, fences and spaces for parking.

Good to see positive chsnges.

a big let-down for youngsters

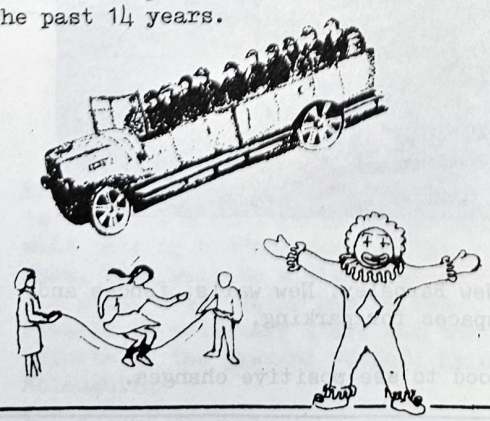
For the last 14 years Belfast has had summer play schemes for its children, particularly the children of families who live in socially deprived areas. These have been organised by community groups, schools, and voluntary bodies. Summer play schemes were grant-aided by Belfast Education & Library Board.

This year, the BELB has said, NO MORE PLAY SCHEMES. It will save them £50,000. But it's our money and our children.

Do they realise, or do they care, that no more play schemes means that our children will be left on the streets with nothing to do during the long summer months? This will mean

MORE ACCIDENTS. MORE VANDALISM. MORE JOYRIDING, with the possibility of accompanying murders by the so-called 'security forces'. All this will bring more stress on the community, especially parents and the elderly.

In recent months, many parents and community leaders in West Belfast have come together to see how they can work with young people to curb the growing anti-social trends among some sections of the youth. Some of the public meetings have been attended by senior officers of the BELB who have pledged their support to the community's efforts. It smacks of nauseating hypocrisy in the face of this latest round of cuts that will bring to an end a summer tradition that has been an inherent part of community life for the past 14 years.

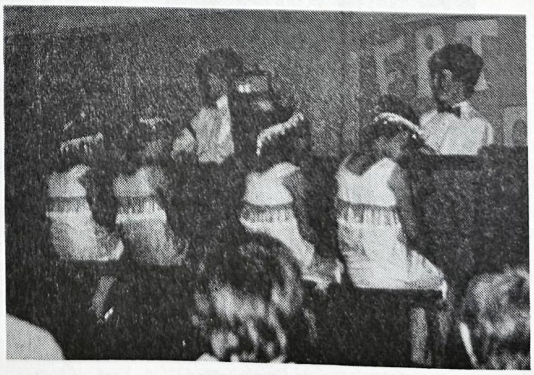


don't you quit

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're treading seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow,
You may succeed with another blow.
Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt.
Yet you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near yet seem so far,
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

EASTER FUN



A scene from the 1920's at the Matt Talbott Easter Show. Another high standard performance from the youth.

a highnote

It's not often we can report on instant successes; but it would appear that the flight of the moneylenders from Whiterock estate is such a success.

Our readers will remember how, in last November's issue of RESOURCE, we highlighted the issue of moneylending in Whiterock, and pointed out that many aspects of the operation seemed to be illegal. Following on that report, SCOPE magazine featured an interview with two victims of the Whiterock operation, and from there the issue was picked up by the local newspapers, culminating in a two-page spread by the Sunday News.

On the heels of all the publicity, and with the support now being offered to the Whiterock borrowers, (which included information from the Office of Fair Trading that showed that the company's licence was granted TWO YEARS after they started loaning money in Whiterock), the Whiterock people, mainly women, told the moneylenders to hump off, that they had squeezed enough blood out of the area. And strangely enough, the company did just that, leaving uncollected debts to the tune of some £10,000. Couldn't happen to nicer people!

UPPER SPRINGFIELD CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SCHEME PRESENTS:

SCHOOL AND YOUTH CLUB CONCERT
ON THURSDAY 9TH MAY 1985
IN WHITEROCK COMMUNITY CENTRE
7.30 P.M.
ADMISSION: ADULTS £1 CHILDREN 50p.

MATERIAL FOR RESOURCE

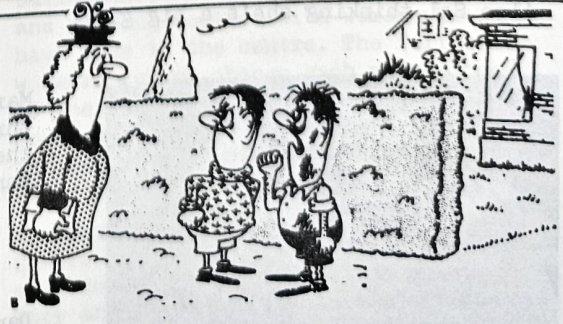
If you have any material that you would like to have published in RESOURCE, drop it in at the Upper Springfield Resource Centre, 195 Whiterock Road, Belfast 12. Tel: 228928.

at the polls

ARE YOU ENTITLED TO VOTE? The new racist legislation introduced by the Brits to cover elections here - that everybody in the North must now produce one of 5 forms of I.D. - is not designed simply to stop personation as claimed by the Brits. It is designed to steal the votes of a large section of the young in the forthcoming election, and give the Brits a self-fulfilling prediction, i.e. 'We told you there was massive personation - look at the drop in votes.'

The fact is that many young people do not have a FULL driving licence, a passport, a medical card, a pension or family allowance book, or a marriage licence (after 1983 only). So, come May 15th all those who do not possess one of the above documents will be disenfranchised. No other I.D. will be accepted, and they will therefore be deprived of their vote. This is not accidental. The most obvious form of I.D. is a birth certificate, which everyone has; but this has been left out in the full knowledge that the result will mean a big drop in the younger vote. The Brits hope that this will give them a more 'satisfactory' result in the local government elections. It is therefore of vital importance that anybody who does not have any of the above should immediately apply for a medical card. Remember, a provisional licence will NOT do. You can apply by phone to Belfast 224431.

DON'T LET THE BRITS STEAL YOUR VOTE.



"But missus, I don't want him to apologise. I just want to knock his head off."

CROSSMAGLEN

They did it again. The Resource Centre's Stage 1 in Youth & Community Work once more descended on the quiet, sleepy village of Crossmaglen, an idyllic place for a fishing holiday or a few weeks convalescing if you've just recovered from an illness. Certain media interests may hotly dispute these sentiments; but be assured, Crossmaglen is a lovely picturesque little town full of friendly people who really wouldn't harm a fly.

In a mini-bus and car, armed with the usual guitars, melodic voices, tents, sleeping bags and mobile bottle shop, they headed south on Friday 26th April and below is a photographic account of that historic outing.

Sal, Eileen, Betty and Granny Annie preparing for the village assault.

Margaret, Terry, Hans (from Berlin), Vera and Thing in Murtagh's pub.

We tried to keep Pat Mullan out of this issue, but the bugger snuck in. Also Sal thinking she's a big girl.

Mary, Donal,and Betty being harrassed by Grannie Annie.

Margaret about to throw her pint over the braying Grannie Annie. ←

Dan simply looking on from a safe distance. →

FALLS WOMEN'S CENTRE

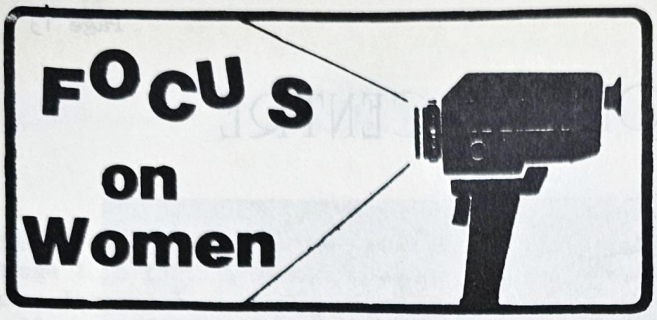
Catherine puts on the kettle in the relaxed atmosphere of the Women's Centre.

The Falls Women's Centre came about because a number of women felt strongly that a women's centre should be based in West Belfast, knowing that they could compliment the work already being carried out by groups such as the Rape Crisis Centre and Women's Aid. The Rape Crisis Centre was in operation about 6 months, and such was the demand that they had to install an answering service several nights a week. On this basis alone, the women realised that they would have to employ full time staff if the centre was to be fully functional. They knew that there were lots of issues affecting women that needed to be changed; and that this required a centre run by and for women. Women had been in the front line of struggle ever since the Six County state was set up, but never or very rarely on issues particularly relevant to women only.

The women acquired premises at 170a Falls Road. Through a series of fund-raising events, they put together enough money to fix up three rooms. Then the fund-raising started all over again, donations from America, France, Germany, Britain and Canada (sisterhoods worldwide, and some brothers were OK too). They found that there were Irish women everywhere who were only too willing to help. Through the ACE scheme they then employed 3 workers, providing 10% of their wages.

Gorretti, Sadie and Maire, the first workers, ran a social once a month, which helped pay the bills. They are still involved. They also have 4 or 5 other voluntary workers, helping with call-backs, the Mother & Toddler Group, and keeping contact with women who have come to the centre. The full time workers (which change each year - one of the curses of the ACE scheme) are co-opted onto the management each year. The Centre also has close links with other women's groups.

Although the women at the Women's Centre call themselves 'advice workers', they do not see themselves as such. They are there to explain the options open to the women who come to the centre, allow them to make their own decision, and support them in that



FALLS WOMEN'S CENTRE

(Continued from previous page)

decision. If a woman has been the victim of violence in the home, they will put her in touch with Women's Aid if she wishes to get out of the situation. If she wishes to stay at home, they will visit the home and talk to all concerned. Sometimes, they are met with hostility from husbands, but they have learned how to handle such situations.

Mary Enwright from the centre said, 'Many women don't understand why other women continue to live with violent men,so they often behave dismissively towards them. But, these women need a lot of support, often just to get back their self-respect. Things like rape and incest also take a long time to come to terms with as the women are totally isolated by the experience.'

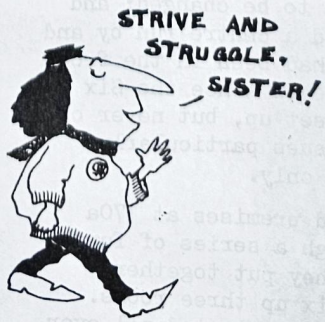
The centre also deals with everyday problems related to welfare benefits and housing, and problems with teenage children. Generally it offers an arm of support to women in stress. Catherine, Briege and Christine have just completed their 12-month period of ensuring that that arm is a warm and friendly one.

Last year, the centre also organised night classes with the help of the Workers' education Association. Topics included housing, payment of debt, sex education, family law and social security. They intend doing the same this autumn, so if any woman wants to attend, wants information, or would like to suggest a class, then they are welcome to do so. They also have a 'Spare Tyre' support group for women who feel they are overweight. There are also social evenings and bus-runs that are always enjoyed by all.

The centre has also taken an active part in organising street protests against sex attacks on women.

Mary Enwright sends this message to all women in West Belfast: 'At the moment we are trying to set up support groups in all the areas to break the isolation that faces so many women. We want women to know that no matter how big or small their problem may be, we are there to help. We want to encourage all women to question the roles that society encourages them to play, and to realise their full potential as human beings, not just as sex objects, domestic slaves or baby-minders. We know we can count on your support and ask you to use the centre. After all that's what it's there for. And remember sisters, none better to break the chains than those who are wearing them!'

The Falls Women's Centre can be contacted at Belfast 238123.



FOCUS on Women

LOCAL WOMEN IN PROFILE.

In 1973 Sr. Bernadette and some of her colleagues began work in the Upper Springfield area. The facilities in the area at that time were extremely limited and they were based in the Community House in Springhill. In the early '70's there was a large influx of people into the Ballymurphy area and in many cases the people were arriving with little more than the clothes on their backs. A great deal of organisation was needed to provide these people with furniture and provisions and Sr. Bernadette and the other nuns were heavily involved in this.

When the nuns got the use of two rooms in Corpus Christi, Sr. Bernadette set about organising Women's Groups for mothers and a club for senior citizens in the area. Pilgrimages to Lourdes and day retreats for women were arranged and holidays were organised with the aid of the Community Relations group which existed at that time.

By 1977 Sr. Bernadette, though still based in Springhill had developed the idea of opening a thrift shop in Moyard, and this was soon in operation.

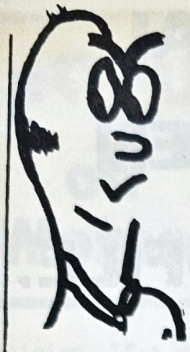
The community then acquired a caravan in Ballycastle and began organising budget holidays for people throughout the area. The one caravan has since become two and now approximately 40 families per year are using the facility.

In 1978 Sr. Bernadette and some of the other nuns moved into Moyard and were again faced with the problem of having no facilities. With the help of Social Services the nuns then set up the Hostel in one of the blocks of flats in Moyard. The facility has been extremely well used and in fact would need to be extended. Again Mother and Toddler groups and Senior Citizen groups were set up and trips and holidays were organised. In the beginning this was done from the Thrift Shop, then the Matt Talbot Oratory was opened, which provided a lot more space and allowed functions to be held.

SR. BERNADETTE

Sr. Bernadette then managed to get a portable cabin and this was opened two years ago as the Matt Talbot Centre. Various groups in the area use the Centre and it is in use every evening. Sr. Bernadette also runs a drop-in centre for women from the Centre.

Quite recently the sisters were given the use of a house in Bangor and they have spent the last few months getting the house into order. They hope that this facility will be used by families in the summer for holidays and that it can be used for residential weekends at other times of the year.



Guernin' Barney Sez...

What about the Falls Local History Group? Ya haven't heard! Bejasus, I thought everywan had heard about them. Well, ya see, there's this bunch o' mostly loonies from aroun' the place, an' they have this great plan: they're gonna shift wan o' them old houses from about the Falls ta Conway Street Mill...! Now what about that fer a yarn! I sees it all before me now - two thousand hod-carriers, wi' Sal Brennan an' Kate Mc Guinness out front, traipsin' up an' down the Falls wi' heaps o' bricks an' o'rr rubble, an' droppin' em in the grounds o' the mill, all carefully numbered o' course; cos this crowd's no mugs, I'm tellin' ya. After all, didn't they carry the stones fer the Pyramids from Abysinnia..! See if our crowd wus aroun' in them days, they'd have moved the Pyramids back up ta Abysinnia agin after they wus built, jus fer the crack. I hears there's people gonna set up camp down at the mill jus ta watch the whole operation. An' I hears tell that the Ulster Museum is goin' ta mark the spot so that in centuries ta come, when people's wonderin' what the strange mound in Conway Street is, they'll be able ta say 'Under this spot lies wan o' them oul' houses from about the Falls ...'

Then there wus Garret the Parrot come on a sneak visit to Derry an' thought he wus in some place called 'Londonderry'. He come creepin' aroun wi' Teabags Barry, insultin' all sorts o' people wi' intelligence an' tellin' em how they should vote in the lections. He's a great mawn fer makin' himself unpopular.

Small childer in Derry wus heard ta be shoutin' 'Out! Out! Out!' Wonder where they got that from?

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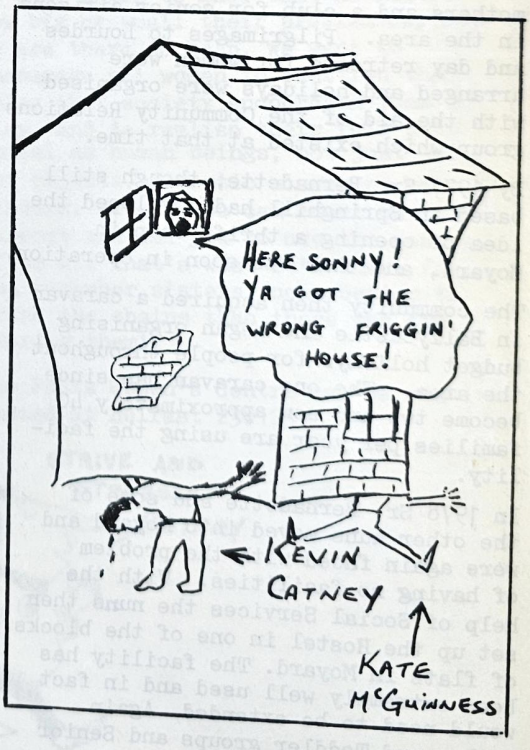
And, somethin' new fer them doctors an' the like what thinks they're smart - I wus up in the Sloans last week an what d'ya think I discovers? Nathin' less than a slow leak in me brain! Now, I knows it's hard ta take in, but it's as true as I'm standin' here. Wi' the result that wan side o' me head got drunker than th'orr an' the very opposite side o' me body - wan drunk arm, wan drunk leg, wan drunk eye an' so on. This wus all very confusin' fer the orr clients in the club, wan half o' me fallin' about the place an' th'orr half as straight as a gun barrel. So there's wan fer the books now!

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